

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/926,302

Examiner

James Arnold, Jr.

Applicant(s)

UKITA, KEIZO

Art Unit

1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed on 9 October 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 9 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-21 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not disclose an anti-gelling agent for a hydrocarbon mixture containing a conjugated diene which comprises at least one compound from the group consisting of compounds having an NO radical in the molecule, and precursor compounds capable of forming an NO radical, a phosphorous-containing compound, and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of heterocyclic aldehydes, aromatic aldehydes, and condensates of these aldehydes. The prior art does not disclose a method of preventing clogging in an apparatus for separating and refining a hydrocarbon mixture containing a conjugated diene, which comprises adding into the apparatus at least one compound from the group consisting of compounds having an NO radical in the molecule, and precursor compounds capable of forming an NO radical, a phosphorous-containing compound, and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of heterocyclic aldehydes, aromatic aldehydes, and condensates of these aldehydes. The prior art also does not disclose a method of separating a hydrocarbon from a hydrocarbon mixture containing a conjugated diene by distillation, characterized in that the distillation is carried out in the presence of an anti-gelling agent comprising at least one compound from the group consisting of compounds having an NO radical in the molecule, and precursor compounds capable of forming an NO radical, a phosphorous-containing compound, and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of heterocyclic aldehydes, aromatic aldehydes, and condensates of these aldehydes.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Saito et al (USPN 4,292,414) and Eldin (USPN 6,579,442). The Saito et al. reference discloses a process for preparing a modified block copolymer. The Eldin reference discloses a method for inhibiting the polymerization of vinyl monomers utilizing a combination of nitroxyl compounds and aliphatic amines.

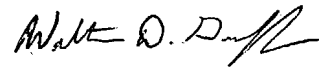
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Arnold, Jr. whose telephone number is 571-272-1443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-6:00 PM; Fridays from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ja
April 2, 2004



Walter D. Griffin
Primary Examiner